

INKPEN AND COMBE BULLETIN

APRIL 2024



CHURCH LETTER

“Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote, The droghte of March hath perced to the roote . . . ,”

No, I haven't gone mad, and neither have I lost my dictionary nor disabled my spellchecker.

Those are the opening lines from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* – his collection of stories recounted to pass the time by his ill-assorted group of pilgrims, making their way to the Thomas à Becket shrine at Canterbury. The 29 pilgrims have waited until April – the month of “sweet showers” – to start their journey. So early in the month when I write this, I can't be sure about the “drought of March”, though maybe it wouldn't be altogether a bad thing after the last few months of floods and rainfall which have been anything but sweet.

In Chaucer's narrative, he meets up with the travellers at the start of their journey, in the Tabard Tavern in Southwark, where they agree to entertain each other in the evenings with a story-telling competition. Although they are such a motley crew, the group does in fact represent what was seen at the time as the three social orders: “those who pray” (clergy and members of religious orders), “those who fight” (knights and the nobility) and “those who work” (serfs and peasants). It would only be in a unique setting such as a pilgrimage, that these people would be coming together socially. Chaucer paints pithy and sometimes scathing pen-portraits of the faults and foibles of each of them – with the religious orders clearly no better than any of the others! The stories they tell are as varied as their characters and backgrounds.

What this odd bunch of people all have in common is that they are travelling the same road to the same destination, and with the same purpose in mind – to worship at the sacred place where less than two hundred and fifty years earlier, in 1170, a man – Archbishop Thomas Becket – was brutally killed for adhering to his faith. Canterbury had become a regular place of pilgrimage for the English during mediaeval times – although Jerusalem, the place of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus – was seen as the ultimate holy destination. Perhaps surprisingly, given the arduous and surely uncomfortable nature of their journey of about 112 miles, these travellers all seem to manage to rub along together fairly smoothly.

As we approach Easter this year, I find myself thinking about Jerusalem 2,000 years ago under the brutal rule of the Romans, and then about all that is taking place in that region today. I find myself considering Chaucer's pilgrims, and then

all of us, with all our differences, and all our similarities, all treading the same road, to a common destination. And just as they travelled, with hope and fellowship through the uncertainties of an unfamiliar landscape, maybe this “Aprille” we could be trying to do the same – each telling our stories and each listening to the stories our fellow pilgrims all have to tell, in respectful companionship with each other.

Useless – but interesting – item of info: that word companion means one who “breaks bread” (or shares food) “with another”?!

Jenny

NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL’S

You may well be aware from all you hear or read in the media that things keep happening in the Church of England. Sadly very few of them are to its credit. But what is becoming increasingly apparent is that if it is to survive let alone prosper this can only be by support at Parish level. So it is with much gratitude that we thank the village for the support you give.

St. Michael's as a building is open 8.30am to 4pm seven days a week and for services all are most warmly welcomed. But as a 'body corporate' its Council is accountable once a year to the village. This is at the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** to which all who live in the village are entitled to attend, to hear Reports over the past year and to have their say. However, only those who are on the **Church Electoral Roll** have the right to vote. They must be baptised and resident in the village or be regular worshippers to have their name put on the Roll. This year's Meeting is not until **May 8th** and will be held in the **Church Room** at **7pm**.

The Revision of the existing Roll takes place before that date so if you want your name to be added, contact the Electoral Roll Officer who is Tim des Forges by email - tim@godsondesforges.co.uk - before 17th April. This sounds very officious I'm afraid, but that's what the book says.

The first service this month is **Parish Communion at 9.45 on the 7th April** and will be led by Revd. Patrick Whitworth. The second is **Holy Communion** following the Book of Common Prayer and is at **8.30 on the 14th April**. And the third is **Compline** which will be led by Christopher Sears at **6pm on the 21st April**. And we can look forward to the **Benefice Rogation Service** which will be held at **West Woodhay Church at 10am on May 5th**. Roll on Spring!

CHURCH SERVICES FOR INKPEN AND COMBE

INKPEN

Sunday 7th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion at 9.45am

Sunday 14th April – 3rd Sunday of Easter – Holy Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 21st April – 4th Sunday of Easter - Compline at 6pm

COMBE

Sunday 21st April – 4th Sunday of Easter - Holy Communion at 11.15am

CHURCH CONTACTS

Benefice Administrator: Tamara Laing, part-time at the **Benefice Office** Email: wbb.office.contact@gmail.com **07359 327072**

Churchwardens:

Inkpen: Charlotte Bampfyld (inkpenchurch@outlook.com)

Combe: Tina Fiertz (tel. 668529), Katherine Astor (katherine@kirby-house.co.uk).

CHURCH SERVICES AT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HUNGERFORD

Our Lady of Lourdes, Priory Road, Hungerford RG17 0AF

Parish Priest - Fr Zbigniew Budyn 01635 40332

Sunday Mass - every Sunday at 9.00am

Weekday Mass - every Wednesday at 10.00am

For further information contact Paul Burrough 01488 668882

Mobile 07836 292976 Email paul.burrough43@gmail.com

INKPEN PLAYING FIELD & PAVILION

In readiness for the summer sporting activity there are some improvements happening at the Inkpen pavilion.

- **Improved energy management** with the installation of **Rooftop Solar Panels** - as the pavilion is dependent on electricity. This will allow for

cost savings to be obtained from a more structured approach to shutting down heating, lighting and electric showers.

- **Door Access Control** and a light timer for the overhead lights at the hard court for tennis, football and netball.
- **Improved sporting activity** from a grant to enable a range of sports to be undertaken for our young (and older) residents with professional coaching on hand.
- **A questionnaire for residents** to determine future activities and interests to be provided in the village.
- **Volunteers are needed** - if you can spare a little time to help out, please speak to Brian Cox, Chair of the Memorial Playing Field, and help to make the village one of sporting excellence and recreational activity.

*******Keep Active*******

INKPEN STITCH AND KNIT

Our April meeting will be on **Wednesday 3rd April** when we will have a relaxed evening of working on our own projects, drinking tea and eating biscuits. As always, we meet at 7.30pm in Inkpen Village Hall.

Our **May meeting is on Wednesday 1st May** when we will have a demonstration on how to make Dorset Buttons - a fascinating technique with a very interesting history. There will also be the opportunity to make your own and materials will be supplied.

Do consider coming along first visit is free. jan@honeydesign.co.uk
01488668222 for further information.

THE CROWN AND GARTER

In anticipation of the warmer months, keep your eyes peeled for our Sunday live music evenings. What better excuse to pop to the pub on a Sunday evening? As usual, our popular **quiz nights run on the last Wednesday of every month**. It is important to note that you must book ahead as they are filling up early in the month..

We look forward to welcoming you.

The C&G Team

INKSPOTS

At Inkspots we have been so busy thinking about our Mathematic skills - Using gravel, which makes a great sound. The children have been thinking about What can they find? What can they pour? What noise does it make? What does it feel like? How high can you fill the jug? Is it heavy or light? Learning new language, volume, capacity. The children have become experts at this. The children have all been working so hard thinking about our new topic, spring and making such wonderful craft.

Come and see some of the children's amazing sun catchers at our Preschool 'spring themed' window.

What amazing little artists. So much fun & lots of learning.



We are currently looking for volunteers happy to join our friendly Inkspots committee. We are responsible for supporting the growth and development of our precious pre-school as a collaborative little team.

It is a lovely opportunity to offer input specific to your natural skill set, and rest assured nothing will be asked of you that you don't enjoy or feel happy to offer or commit to.

Should you like to know more, please do connect with us, it would be lovely to have a chat. Please email inkspots@inkpen.w-berks.sch.uk

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES

A new timetable will be issued shortly. The mobile van stops at: Craven Rd. Inkpen 2.20-2.50pm and at Inkpen School at 3.05 – 4pm.

THE INKPEN HISTORY GROUP

Our next meeting will be **on Friday 19th April, 7pm at the Inkpen playing field pavilion**. We have an exciting line up with presentations on the history of the Crown and Garter and on the history of Combe. Hopefully we will be able to present the new LiDAR results for Inkpen Hill (not Walbury Hill) and provide updates on several of the group's projects. As always there will be refreshments at half time, and time for people to chat and ask questions.

A new sub-group covering events during WW2 has been formed and we would appreciate any anecdotes, and sight of any pictures or items from the period. Also, the transcription of medieval Latin document is taking place. What these tell us about Inkpen in the 14th century is amazing.

We are asking all attendees that can afford it to donate £1 per person to help us cover the hire of the pavilion and the cost of refreshments. However, your presence at the meeting is the most important thing so all donations are purely voluntary but gratefully received.

If anyone has any advice on how to stop the rain so that we can get on with outdoor activities, you will be awarded a free cuppa.

The Circadian Rhythm

For millions of years life has been shaped by the world's rhythmic shifts of night and day. Many living things including plants, animals and humans have Circadian Rhythms which are tailored to the daily and seasonal changes that occur as the Earth rotates and orbits.

These regular natural changes in light and temperature help living things respond to changes in their environment in ways that conserve energy, help them find food and allow them to grow and heal.

In humans and other mammals, the Circadian Rhythm controls many fundamental bodily functions including: sleep/wake patterns, core body temperature, the immune system, metabolism, hormones, cognitive function and reaction to stress. It also controls the biological clocks located in organs and glands throughout the body commanded by a 'master clock' in the brain. In humans this is called the suprachiasmatic nucleus.

In most adults and adolescents, the Circadian Rhythm operates on a cycle that is slightly longer than 24 hours. To maintain alignment with the 24-hour rotation of the Earth, the body's master clock has to adjust by about 12 to 18 minutes every day. For this reason, it also reacts to environmental cues; the light and darkness cycle is the most important and powerful of these. This triggers the release of hormones in the brain and the delivery of chemical signals to body tissues

allowing the master clock to time vital functions such as the conversion of food into energy, fluctuations in body temperature and regular sleep patterns. The biological clock in all animals is critical. It helps them anticipate and maximise feeding time and avoid predators and competition. Importantly, it also times the physiological readiness for mating and synchronises mating times. For hibernating animals like hedgehogs, changes in light and temperature also prepares them for winter. In other species preparation is needed for drought or migration.

In order for our native wild animal and bird populations to survive and thrive, it is essential to ensure that dark periods of the day are respected, and the Circadian Rhythm is not distorted by the use of unnecessary artificial light at night. This is particularly important for those often-invisible creatures at the bottom of the food chain: insects. More about them next month.

Kate Adams Tee and David Thomas in support of the North Wessex Downs 'Dark Skies' initiative.



***Night full of Wonder, of Stars
and of Life. Keep it Dark.***

Calling all Potential Inkpen Stargazers

If you are interested in being part of an Inkpen Stargazers Club, please email us so that we can see if this is viable. Let us know if there are particular evenings that you **can't** do as this is obviously a nighttime activity. Email: inkpen-climate@outlook.com. All those under 16 would need to be accompanied by a parent.

In the first instance this would be a sort of astronomical starters club, with a lot of the activity requiring binoculars although at least one telescope will be available for more detailed observations. The first session would set out all the things that

you will need, including phone/tablet apps. Subs will probably be around £3 per person. Thanks for your interest.

INKPEN POP-IN CAFÉ - 4th and 18th April

Sorry for any confusion caused by our entry in last month's bulletin. The dates given were wrong (my fault). The café is **always the first and third Thursdays of the month**, so in April, that is the 4th and 18th and in May it'll be the 2nd and 16th. Opening time is 10am till 12:30 and it's at the Inkpen playing field pavilion. All are welcome. We have customers from 1 year old to 90+. Do bring a friend if you can. Choose from coffee, tea or hot chocolate (there's even fruit squash or milk for our younger customers), and there's biscuits and cake too.

As the name suggests, you can pop in at any time during opening hours and stay as long as you want. It's all free, no obligations at all, although donations do help us cover out costs. Come and give us a try.

COPY DATE

Please email aliedesforges@yahoo.co.uk by **21st April** with all features, news and events for the May edition.

Jeannine Barber - a Tribute

We are sad to report the passing of Jeannine Barber, a long-time resident of Inkpen, who died in February of this year. Residents and CPRE Newbury & Hungerford, who knew Jeannine (Lady Barber) pay tribute to her longstanding and tireless campaigning to save the countryside from destruction.

Jeannine was an Inkpen Parish Councillor and Chairman for many years and was involved in various campaigns and initiatives with CPRE, the countryside charity. She became involved locally with the preservation of Hedgerows and campaigned against the 2,000 houses to have been built on the land near Watership Down, Sandleford, south of Newbury, a landscape designed by Capability Brown.

Jeannine was recognised for her opposition to the controversial Newbury bypass (referred to as the Third Battle of Newbury), and to the felling of over 10,000 oak trees and the decimation of the woodland needed to make way for this controversial bypass. Jeannine delivered food to those campaigning (including Swampy), who inhabited the trees in order to block the way of the bulldozers. In recent years, Jeannine moved from Windrush House to Shalbourne, and

suffered poor health. It was clearly a struggle for her to maintain the momentum of her earlier years.

It will be hard to replace Jeannine, and find such dedication, determination and passion for the English countryside and AONB (now known as a National Landscape).

For more information about CPRE, the countryside charity - contact www.cpreberkshire@btopenworld.com. and become a supporter or volunteer.

CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME TO HELP?



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Help a child find the fun in reading...



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Email: info@abctoread.org.uk

www.abctoread.org.uk



Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1184698

FOXGLOVE FARM – LAMBING WEEKEND

FOXGLOVE FARM
Lambing
WEEKEND
RG17 9QR

6th & 7th
April
2024

Come
and Say
Hello!

Foxglove Farm
Great Common, Inkpen
RG17 9QR
Adults £7. Kids (2-16yrs) £3
Cash or Card
Includes Tractor Tour

Free Parking. Local Food and crafts. Tractor farm tours. Hot Food.
Bring your wellies. No pregnant women.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Inkpen Parish Council Meetings are all advertised on the village notice boards and the *Agenda* and *Draft Minutes* placed on the official Parish website– see <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/pc2.html>

The next Parish Council meeting: will be the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Monday 15th April 2024** to which all Inkpen residents are invited to have their say. The Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Bates, will provide a report on activities throughout the year. There will be an opportunity to pose questions, through the Chair, at the meeting so please take the opportunity to attend. Organisers, and Volunteers of Inkpen groups are invited to attend to report on activities.

Refreshments will be provided.

The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 13th May 2024**. Nominations for election will be sought in advance of the meeting from Councillors.

Parish Council Planning meetings are arranged to meet target dates set by West Berkshire Council. *All meetings are* advertised on the village notice boards and the Inkpen website, in advance of the meeting <http://inkpenvillage.co.uk/pc2.html>

Planning applications for consideration this month are:

24/00276/House The Driftway, Heads Lane, Inkpen – Replacement of existing conservatory with single storey extension.

24/00311/FUL Foxglove Farm, Great Common, Inkpen – Change of use of 2.4 acres of agricultural land for use for leisure and tourism, specifically for the provision of a glamping site that will provide 6 tents.

24/00500/House – The Heddles, Weavers Lane, Inkpen – Rear extension and garage conversion

Police & Crime Commissioner Election – 2nd May 2024- please remember to take a photo ID when you go to vote – if you do not have one you can apply for Voter Authority Certificate online: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID. If you are **not** registered to vote at your current address, go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. There will be a UK Parliamentary General Election before January 2025.

Precept for 2024/2025 At the last meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th February. Councillors debated the budget for the next financial year based on the projected forecast of expenditure. There had been no increase of the Precept for the last five years as costs had been absorbed by moving budgets around to cover the unexpected costs. This year it was felt that rising costs could no longer be covered, and Councillors agreed that the Precept would reluctantly need to be increased to £15k. The account covers; maintenance, admin; grass maintenance; waste collection; donations to Inkpen groups; elections and unexpected emergency repairs eg fallen trees.

Felling of Dangerous Trees – please be alert to the high winds and broken branches from nearby trees. The Parish Council has recently paid for the removal of a tree in Post Office Rd. from very limited Parish Council funds. If you know of any trees likely to fall during this extended unsettled weather in the next few weeks, please let us or West Berkshire know before the situation becomes an emergency. Useful phone numbers are: Threat to Life – call 999; Sewers and foul water, Call Thames Water -0800 3169800.

WBC Local Plan Examination Update: The hearing sessions are due to commence at 9.3am on Wednesday 8th May 2024 within Shaw House, Church Rd. Newbury. If you wish to participate in any of the Hearing discussions, please let the programme officer know in advance. All details can be found on the WBC website www.westberks.gov.uk

Gloria Keene,

Clerk to Inkpen Parish Council

Mobile 07704 718475 Email: parishclerk@inkpenvillage.co.uk